

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 RSR-01 /143 W
----- 049240

R 260345 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4530

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2732

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MY, JA

SUBJECT: GOM CONSIDERING BOYCOTT OF TOKYO MINISTERIAL
ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE OFFICIALLY-
INSPIRED ARTICLE IN STRAITS TIMES JUNE 25, GOM IS
CONSIDERING BOYCOTTING OCTOBER MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
SEA DEVELOPMENT IN TOKYO BECAUSE OF JAPAN'S "INDIFFERENCE
TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF REGION". GOM
REPORTEDLY WILL ALSO ATTEMPT RALLY ASEAN COLLEAGUES
AGAINST CONFERENCE. REASON FOR HARSH ATTACK UNCLEAR,
BUT MAY BE RESULT OF REBUFF GOM ECONOMIC DELEGATION
RECENTLY RECEIVED IN TOKYO. END SUMMARY.

1. CITING "INFORMED SOURCES" FRONT-PAGE STRAITS TIMES
STORY JUNE 25 ASSERTED THAT GOM MAY BOYCOTT EIGHTH MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHEAST
ASIA SCHEDULED FOR TOKYO IN OCTOBER. "SOURCES" ASSERTED
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THAT GOM NOW IN PROCESS OF MAKING DECISION, BUT " THE
GENERAL FEELING IS THAT IT (CONFERENCE) WILL NOT SERVE
ANY PURPOSE IF JAPAN CONTINUES HER AGGRESSIVE ECONOMIC
POLICY".

2. STORY RAISED POSSIBLITY THAT GOM WILL RAISE ITEM AT
NEXT ASEAN SECGEN MEETING IN JAKARTA JULY 5 AND 6 TO RALLY
SUPPORT OF OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS TO TAKE JOINT ACTION
AGAINST CONFERENCE.

3. AN EXAMPLE OF " JAPANESE INDIFFERENCE", SOURCES SAID,
" WAS ITS (JAPAN) LUKEWARM RESPONSE TO THE RECENT PLEA BY
ASEAN COUNTRIES TO JAPAN TO STOP HER MASSIVE SYNTHETIC
RUBBER PRODUCTION."

4. SEVERAL RELIABLE PRESS SOURCES CONCUR WITH EMBASSY' S
BELIEF THAT STORY WAS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED, BUT PLEAD
IGNORANCE AS TO WHAT MOTIVATED EXPRESSION OF SUCH HARSH
VIEWS AT THIS TIME. JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER ALSO EXPRESSED
SHOCK TO EMBOFF JUNE 25 AND WAS AT LOSS TO EXPLAIN
BACKGROUND. SHE SAID THAT AFTER TRYING ALL DAY TO CONTACT
MFA AND BEING PUT OFF, SHE FINALLY GOT IN TOUCH WITH
PERTINENT OFFICIAL WHO TOLD HER THAT STORY WAS BASELESS.

5. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT GOM ECONOMIC DELEGATION WHICH
VISITED TOKYO ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO TO EXPEDITE AND OBTAIN
BETTER TERMS FROM JAPANESE ON PROMISED YEN CREDITS TO
MALAYSIA RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR EMPTY- HANDED AND QUITE
IRRITATED ABOUT THE WAY THEY WERE TREATED. (FULLER
REPORT ON THIS INCIDENT WILL BE SEPARATELY REPORTED BY
AIRGRAM). THIS MAY WELL EXPLAIN HIGH- LEVEL OF GOM PIQUE
WITH JAPANESE REFLECTED IN NEWSPAPER ITEM.
CHESLAW

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SINGAPORE
TOKYO

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